



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

As we were writing this newsletter, we reflected upon the importance of the work that you are all engaged in. Your scientists contribute to the public good with solid, science-based recommendations as we face the complexities of meeting the demand for food and the competition for resources: water, land, and energy. From our perspective, many thanks!

The action item that we bring to your attention: the room block for the NERA Spring Meeting (March 25-27) is now open! See you in DC at the end of March!

“We have a single mission: to protect and hand on the planet to the next generation.” Francios Hollande (2015) during the [United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP21\)](#), Paris, November 30, 2015.

Action items:

- We've secured a room block at the Residence Inn Washington Downtown (1199 Vermont Avenue NW Washington, District of Columbia 20005) for the NERA Spring Meeting. The room block includes the evenings of March 25 and March 26 at \$269/night. Breakfast is included with your room. As a reminder, we'll be meeting at the APLU and will convene at 8:30 AM ET on March 26 and adjourn in the early afternoon of March 27. The last day to secure a room in the block is March 4. Here's the link to: [the NERA room block](#).
- As the NERA Executive Committee drafts the agenda for the NERA Spring Meeting, they are interested to hear your thoughts on “critical issues”. What issues, challenges, obstacles, or opportunities are on the top of your priority list? Please [share your thoughts with us](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- The [requests for agInnovation Awards nominations](#) have been posted. The nominations include Excellence in Leadership; Excellence in Multistate Research; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (individual and group); and Ag Research Innovation (this is a new award). We know that we have outstanding Northeast leaders, researchers, research projects, and DEI innovators. Here's the action item: please check out the calls for nominations and consider submitting a nomination.
- As a heads up, we archive all of the NERA Newsletters on the NERA website under the banner of “[Announcements: NERA News](#)”. Now you have an evergreen source to check all the NERA News that's fit to print.

Informational items:

- *Save the date:* agInnovation's Diversity Catalyst Committee will be hosting a best practice webinar on February 22, 2024 at 4 PM ET. The webinar will feature Dr. Jackie Mosley, an award-winning DEI

speaker. More details to come!

- Check out the [Multistate Impacts Toolkit for February 2024](#). Please feel free to share the toolkit and use the materials and sample posts as you see fit.
- The BAA's [Communications and Marketing Committee February 2024 Toolkit](#) has been released. 1890 Land-grant Universities and Black History Month are the focal points for February.
- The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has released its 2023 annual report, which is [posted on the NERA website](#).
- [Registration is now open](#) for the National Science Foundation's webinar, **Updates to the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1)** on Tuesday, March 12, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET.
- The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has published its 2023 Annual Report and that's available on the NERA website under [Workroom/Reports-Whitepapers/2024](#).
- The Agricultural Research Service is hosting a virtual [Arthropod Genomics Symposium Spring 2024](#) on February 13, April 10, April 30, and May 21. While there is no fee to participate, [registration is required](#).



New England Farm in Winter (circa 1850), artist Daisy C. Miller, *Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington*.

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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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